



# Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending June 03, 2007

## LACK OF RAIN CHALLENGES FARMERS

A strong ridge of high pressure centered across the southeast U.S. brought a continuation of mainly dry weather to Tennessee last week. Although a few areas received isolated showers last week, the lack of rain has been problematic on several fronts. First, crops and pastures have been greatly stressed from the moderate to extreme drought conditions experienced across Tennessee, and overall condition ratings for corn, hay, wheat, and pastures all declined from the week earlier. Second, planting of crops, including tobacco transplanting, have been slowed or halted because of the lack of soil moisture. Over half of the soybean crop has emerged, and the crop was rated in mostly fair-to-good condition. Nearly the entire wheat crop was turning color with a fifth of the acreage considered ripe. In addition, livestock producers have begun feeding hay and hauling water, much earlier than usual. In some cases, producers were already feeding hay cut this year, as stocks were extremely short coming out of the winter months. Although the first cutting of hay has been running ahead of schedule, the reduction in yields and quality have minimized the benefits of this rapid progress. Cattle herd sizes were being reduced in many areas to fit available feed supplies.

There were 7 days considered suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture levels were rated 45 percent very short, 44 percent short, and 11 percent adequate. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 43 percent very short, 41 percent short, and 16 percent adequate. Temperatures last week averaged around 5 degrees above normal, while rainfall amounts averaged around an inch below normal statewide.

CROP PROGRESS:					CONDITION:					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2006	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					Percent					
Cotton – Planted	99	98	98	94	Cattle	4	11	39	37	9
Hay – First Cutting	89	76	61	68	Corn	4	12	34	42	8
Tobacco – Transplanted	73	55	58	65	Cotton	1	5	35	53	6
Soybeans – Planted	79	73	74	59	Hay	15	32	38	14	1
Soybeans – Emerged	63	43	52	40	Pastures	20	32	36	12	0
Winter Wheat – Turning Color	95	75	94	87	Soybeans	2	10	33	49	6
Winter Wheat – Ripe	20	n/a	28	23	Tobacco	2	11	38	44	5
					Winter Wheat	28	31	31	10	0

n/a = not available

### County Agent Comments

“Corn showing drought stress in the mornings, especially in the sandy areas of the fields and on the end rows. All cotton and soybeans are up to a stand. Thrips damage to grain sorghum has been found but not bad enough to treat. Most disease and insect problems are not an issue at present. Weeds are beginning to harden off from the dry weather and are harder to kill.”

Greg Allen, Lake County

“Most producers have stopped transplanting tobacco because of dry weather. A few producers have lost their first transplanting due to the extreme dry conditions. Those that have the capability to irrigate are putting on some water before transplanting. Wheat fields that were chemically burned down and planted to corn or beans are infested with cutworms and some army worms.”

John Bartee, Montgomery County

“Soybean planting has been suspended for a month or more due to low soil moisture. Pastures are brown and not producing at all. Livestock producers are hauling water and feeding hay. Hay production is 30% of normal.”

David Qualls, Lincoln County

“Dry weather has allowed the hay to be cut in a more timely manner; however, county hay yields are 40 – 50% below average. Pasture and hay shortage has forced beef producers to start culling cows. There is a lot of interest in planting summer annuals.”

Scott Swoape, Van Buren County

“Most farming operations involving planting have stopped as there is not enough surface moisture to grow anything. Several cattle operations have begun feeding supplemental feed, and small producers are beginning to liquidate grazing livestock. No-till crops planted before mid-April are in the best condition. First cutting hay yields are running between 1/3 and 1/2 of normal.”

Tom Swanks, Meigs County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION  
For week ending: June 4, 2007 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending June 4, 2007				Current Week 06/04/07	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal January 1	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal April 1
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
Ames_Plantation	91	59	76	4	0.69	2	14.16	-10.70	6.52	-4.57
Tri-City_RGNL_A	89	54	73	6	0.00	0	8.92	-8.95	3.40	-4.10
Brownsville_TN	89	63	77	4	1.51	2	13.62	-11.43	5.83	-5.42
Chattanooga/Lov	92	60	76	6	0.00	0	12.78	-11.99	5.53	-3.51
Clarksville_Sew	92	62	76	6	0.94	1	16.45	-6.35	7.33	-1.82
Cookeville	90	56	73	5	0.04	1	15.58	-9.98	5.68	-4.85
Covington	89	62	76	4	0.17	2	14.86	-10.04	6.08	-5.14
Crossville_AP	84	57	71	5	0.00	0	15.93	-9.48	8.91	-1.48
Dayton	89	57	73	4	0.06	1	11.14	-15.03	4.51	-5.64
Dickson_AG	88	57	73	3	0.00	0	15.37	-9.24	5.78	-4.82
Dover_1W	88	61	75	6	0.13	2	17.33	-6.49	6.95	-2.97
Dyersburg	93	63	78	5	0.39	2	13.80	-8.95	4.72	-5.21
Erwin_1W	88	54	72	7	1.05	3	10.95	-9.62	5.33	-3.73
Huntingdon_Wate	91	62	77	6	0.00	0	12.04	-11.89	3.63	-6.54
Jackson_Exp_Stn	90	62	77	6	0.69	2	13.46	-10.84	4.78	-6.24
Kingston_AG	90	57	73	6	0.00	0	15.68	-10.77	7.48	-2.89
Knoxville_AP	90	59	75	6	0.09	1	13.66	-7.90	6.62	-1.62
Lewisburg	92	56	74	5	0.00	0	13.16	-12.19	5.53	-5.24
Lexington_TN	90	61	76	5	0.39	2	15.94	-7.34	6.35	-3.74
Linden	90	57	74	5	0.30	2	15.34	-10.49	6.18	-4.66
Martin	89	64	77	6	1.02	2	16.84	-6.66	5.87	-4.39
Mc_Minnville_Tn	89	56	75	6	0.06	1	12.90	-11.52	5.88	-4.12
Memphis_AG	91	64	78	3	0.07	2	13.14	-11.18	5.17	-5.66
Milan	92	59	76	6	0.69	3	14.51	-9.90	6.27	-4.52
Murfreesboro_5N	91	58	75	5	0.13	2	16.53	-7.53	5.65	-4.63
Nashville_Metro	89	63	77	6	0.00	0	13.62	-8.27	6.05	-3.60
Newcomb	89	55	73	7	0.25	1	15.51	-8.57	7.50	-2.71
Oneida	88	57	73	8	0.24	2	13.66	-10.42	6.16	-4.05
Portland_TN	90	65	76	7	0.06	1	16.01	-7.34	6.65	-3.40
Pulaski_Water_P	91	57	74	2	0.02	1	14.13	-11.26	5.09	-4.91
Savannah_6SW	92	51	74	2	0.34	1	13.93	-13.20	5.27	-6.40
Sparta_TN	89	56	74	6	0.05	1	14.98	-9.94	6.59	-3.76
Springfield	91	60	76	7	0.08	1	16.41	-6.10	7.52	-2.12
Springhill	92	58	75	7	0.40	1	14.45	-11.18	4.95	-6.07
Union_City	90	60	75	5	0.29	2	15.09	-8.26	4.88	-5.29
Waynesboro_TN	90	56	73	4	0.08	3	12.73	-14.37	4.54	-6.79

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Rain Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more during the week. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
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